

CURRENT OPINIONS.

"THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE AND WORDS THAT BURN."

Clippings, Cullings and Comments from the Newspapers Everywhere — The People Are Beginning to See that the Government Must Own Railroads.

It is wonderful how rapidly the people are being educated along the lines of railroad ownership. Mr. Cable, ex-congressman and member of the democratic committee from Illinois, recently came out and declared that it was the proper thing.

The Times-Herald, the leading democratic paper in the west, commenting on this thought that he was "many years ahead of his party," and adds "In time government ownership of these and other natural monopolies will doubtless come. The whole trend of modern social progress is in that direction."

One of the principal features of the currency question which the new silver proposes to leave out, and an important one, is how the increase of currency which they propose, is to get into the hands of the people. The Omaha platform provides that it shall be loaned to them at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, and to be paid on in the way of public improvements. It seems that this part of the plan was to be dropped by the single plankers. Many are disposed to think this a new idea and impractical, but this opinion has its foundation in ignorance. In 1836 the government had a surplus of \$37,000,000 in the treasury. This was distributed among the states and loaned to the people at interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum. Not a dollar of it was lost. Looking over a county paper the other day, we saw this item: "Court approved loan \$1365 County School fund to Thos. Dodson." This was in Missouri. This state, as do a number of others, loans all of its money to the people and rarely ever loses a dollar. The Massachusetts colony loaned money to its citizens and they repaid every dollar of it. The Dominion of Canada helped the Mennonites in settling as a colony with a government loan. Every dollar of it was paid back. The government is constantly loaning money to national bankers. It not infrequently loans to expositions of various kinds. A loan on real estate is safe. It would require no more officers than we now have. Each state and county could become responsible for the money thus loaned and the government not lose a dollar. It would help all the people by reducing the rate of interest and making money plentier. It would hurt no interest but that of the money lender. There can be no serious objection to this plan, and it is one that should be retained in the peoples party platform.

If Mr. Cleveland had taken a contract to create discord in his party he could do it no better than he is. A recent dispatch from Washington reviews his conduct in the following language:

The president is doing his part toward the division of his party. He continues his policy of putting none but cuckoos on guard. There is no such word as conciliation in his lexicon—that is to say, conciliation toward elements in his party which differ from him. The president can be conciliatory enough toward republicans, but he has no use for democrats who disagree with him. Mr. Cleveland's second term is unlike his first in many respects. In no other feature is the difference so marked as in the matter of patronage. To repeal the Sherman act the president dispensed appointments where they would help on his policy and withheld them where senators were too stubborn to accept his views. More recently this theory has been carried out in the provision for beaten senators and representatives to a degree unknown in previous administrations. Breckinridge, repudiated by his Arkansas constituency for his course on the silver legislation, was made minister to St. Petersburg. He got the best office the president had on his list at the time. Springer, as head of the committee on banking and currency, was most loyal to the administration policy, for which and for no other reason he was made a judge in the Indian Territory. When one of Springer's associates in the house was asked about his qualification for the place he said: "He won't have anything to do but set dates for hangings and determine the number of years for penitentiary sentences. I reckon he will be able to fill the bill." From the first to the last of the late session of congress Buck Kilgore kept the committee of coinage, weights and measures without a quorum. His reward at the hands of the president was the other judgeship. Once a week Mr. Bland would call a meeting of his committee. There were eighteen members, but one was the delegate from Utah, who had no vote. Eight members were for free coinage and eight were against free coinage under existing circumstances. The seventeenth member was Kilgore.

"I don't know about Kilgore," Mr. Bland would say. "He tells me he is for silver, but he isn't there when we need his vote."

Sometimes Kilgore was sick. At other times he had business at the white house and didn't get back to the capitol in time to help report the bills which Mr. Bland was nursing so carefully. And so the entire winter went by with the coinage committee deadlocked by Kilgore.

Kilgore has received his reward. He has his coveted judgeship. Others who rendered similar service to the administration have been taken care of. Ransom stood out against the free coinage

sentiment of the North Carolina democracy to his undoing, and was qualified as minister to Mexico the day congress adjourned. Outhwaite, who was the northern member of the committee on rules and brought in the orders under which the administration financial measures were given prompt consideration, has had a \$5,000 a year place found for him. Gen. Cutcheon of Michigan, has resigned the position he held on the fortifications board—resigned by request—and Outhwaite has been appointed. This is one of the smooth things of which the general public seldom hears. It is worth, as stated, \$5,000, and the labor is light. Wilson of West Virginia is in the cabinet, in return for his loyalty to the president. There are others who sacrificed themselves, reversing their records and repudiating the instructions of their constituents who will be taken care of. Has any one heard of a democrat who dared to oppose Grover Cleveland in his financial policy being appointed to high position?

"Oh, that mine enemy had written a book," might be modernized so as to apply to the making of speeches. A careful investigation of speeches made by some of the prominent leaders in both political parties is developing some very good, populist literature. There is no better way to defeat the enemy than to turn his own guns upon him. Here is a specimen of such talk as John G. Carlisle was indulging in several years ago. It is an extract from a speech made in the forty-fifth congress, and, in view of Mr. Carlisle's present position, makes some "mighty interestin' readin'."

"I know that the world's supply of precious metals is none to large, and I see no reason to apprehend that it will ever become so. Mankind will be fortunate, indeed, if the annual production of gold and silver coin shall keep pace with the annual increase of population, commerce and industry. According to my view of the subject, the conspiracy which seems to have been formed here and in Europe to destroy by legislation and otherwise, from three-sevenths to one-half of the money in the world, is the most gigantic crime of this or any other age. The consummation of such a scheme would ultimately entail more misery upon the human race than all the wars, famine, and pestilence that ever occurred in the history of the world. The absolute and instantaneous destruction of half the entire movable property of the world, including houses, ships, railroads and all other appliances for carrying on commerce, while it would be felt more sensibly at the moment, would not produce anything like the prolonged distress and disorganization of society that must inevitably result from the permanent annihilation of one-half of the metallic money of the world."

The leaders of the two old parties begin to see the handwriting on the wall. Col. Van Horn, of Missouri, ex-congressman and a prominent leader in the republican party, says:

"I am coming to the opinion that a crisis is approaching in the political affairs of this country that will be a revolution, bloodless, but thorough and radical. It may involve party lines, and the formation of the people along entirely different politics and ideas. "Three or four banking houses can not much longer own the industries of the world, nor levy tribute on mankind. That is the situation today, and its burdens are becoming more and more acute. People inveigh against banks, but banks as a rule are victims of this monstrous power as any other interest. The business of legitimate banking is as much depressed today from this cause as that of merchandise and farming. It has got so now, to use a common phrase, that banks are unable to help business only when help is not needed, and whenever help is required they have all they can do to protect themselves. Why? Because these syndicates of gold owners have all credit in their power and can ruin and do ruin any interest that is not subservient to their system. And it is these foreign brokers who are looting our treasury of gold on purpose to force upon the United States their acceptance of their rule in money. This power can only be broken by the people at the ballot box. As long as they can keep the finance in the mill of partisan policy so long will this power of the people be thwarted. The political platform of 1892 read all alike on silver—yet silver was destroyed. The same action in 1896 will produce the same result."

Senator Beck of Kentucky in his life time was one of the few incorruptible statesmen that not only saw but protested against the tendency towards a plutocratic government founded on wealth concentrated into the hands of a few by the aid of class legislation. He said:

"I know that the bond holders and monopolists are seeking to destroy all the industries of this people in their greed to enhance the value of their gold. How far they have succeeded in their secret and devilish purposes let the poverty, wretchedness and ruin which have resulted answer. We are curious to know what facts and process of reasoning the sound money clubs will furnish to prove that the act of 1873 was not a fraud, a sneaking, cowardly villainous crime."

During Cleveland's first administration Senator Beck denounced the policy of the administration in a speech in the United States senate, that is hardly equalled by that of Joseph Sibley in the fifty-third congress.

General Weaver is out west with the managers of the bimetallic party, trying to put that party on its feet. We fear that the general's occupation as midwife at the birth of new parties has

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROTHSCHILDS



King Grover—How much gold will you advance on this chattel?

somewhat clouded his judgment as a practical politician. We are inclined to think that relief must rather come through tenacity to principle and uncompromising effort in a certain direction, than in the organization of a new party every two or three years. The growth of the party in Iowa has not been of that nature that would indicate that General Weaver's policy was the best one to pursue. What we need is organization and downright hard work on the lines laid down in the Omaha platform. If the general is going to go off with the bimetallic party we ought to know it now. Better come back, general to your first love.

Senator Vest evidently thinks there are still enough righteous men in the democratic party to save it from destruction. In a recent letter to the New York World he says:

"We of the west and south believe in a tariff for revenue only, and the free coinage of silver. We propose to frame a platform unequivocally declaring our opinions, and to nominate for the presidency a candidate about whose loyalty to this platform there can be no suspicion. "The letter of the president to his admirers in Chicago simply reiterates his well-known views on the silver question, and widens the breach between him and a majority of his party. The president insults that majority by his lecture on sound money. His idea seems to be that gold alone is sound money, and that the value of everything is measured in gold. He proposes to destroy one-half of the primary money of the world and to sustain this outrage by the cry of unsound money. "I agree with Mr. Cleveland in his position on the appointment of commissioners to an international monetary congress. There was never any thing practical in the proposition, and never will be. We must act for ourselves and give the world to understand that we are true bimetalists, honestly in favor of both gold and silver as primary money. This is the great issue in the coming campaign, and we intend to fight it out in the national convention and in every state in the union. The struggle will be in the northwest instead of in the northeast, as heretofore, and we must align our forces with that certainty before us."

"The talk about nominating a southern democrat for president in 1896 is absurd. We must win or lose on free coinage, a revenue tariff and the income tax, and it would be suicidal to invite war prejudices and sectional feeling unnecessarily."

The Crime of the Age. Until the exception clause was inserted in the greenback law greenbacks were as good as gold everywhere in the world. Sherman said the reason the greenbacks were depreciated was to enable the government to sell bonds. While the greenbacks were a full legal tender they were such sound and good money that they remained on a par with gold, and still were so good that nobody wanted government bonds. Had they been continued a full legal tender there would have been no debt and no appreciation of gold, no poverty, no labor troubles, no tramps, no assignments, no panic and nothing but universal peace and plenty, and every body happy and contented and the government out of debt. That is the condition greenbacks would have created and maintained in this country. They were depreciated in order to enable the government to sell bonds so Wall street could gamble in money. What a crime this depreciation of the greenbacks was.—Southern Mercury.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Carnegie and Frick have advanced the wages of employees, but at the same time advanced rents. When Rockefeller endows a college or builds a church the price of coal oil is advanced, but he is counted a philanthropist.

The command of the plutocracy to poor people as pictured in cartoons in recent years, to "Get off the earth" is being complied with. A company of New York capitalists has been formed to erect extensive floating tenement houses to be moored on East River and rented to families. The same scheme is in operation on the Thames, near London. Many families live on boats in the vicinity of St. Louis. It is true that the psalmist says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," but David was not acquainted with the modern landlord.

Forty cents a day is the average wages of more than 30,000 women in the city of New York, and this accounts for the fact that there are 70,000 prostitutes in that city. Is it possible that these conditions can exist under the eyes of millions of Christian people and they will still go on voting to perpetuate them?

By a vote of 70 to 3 the New York legislature passed a bill submitting to the voters of New York city, Brooklyn and Buffalo the question of municipal ownership of street railways. In England one-third of the street railway mileage is owned by cities, and it is said the service is so much better and cheaper that it is merely a question of a short time when corporate or private ownership will be driven out.

The banks continue to "bust" all around the country from a half dozen to a dozen a week, and down goes the money of the depositors in the maelstrom of bankruptcy and ruin. Why not have government savings banks? Can you tell, readers? Not a man, woman or child would ever lose a cent put into a government bank. Then why not have them?

Got to be awful particular nowadays to keep the courts from getting after you. A Los Angeles, Cal., preacher prayed that the Lord might vouchsafe saving grace to the city librarian, cleanse her from sin and make her a woman worthy of her office, which made her mad and she sued him for slander. The preacher pleaded that a prayer was a privileged communication to the Almighty, but the judge ruled against him.

It is a startling fact that less than one-seventh of the population of this country—according to census reports, rest secure in the knowledge that their homes belong to them. This in free America! Is it possible that the American people will slumber on until all of liberty is lost, or until the sudden awakening of the unthinking masses shall precipitate a revolution.

There is one thing that can be said to President Cleveland's credit that cannot be said of his party. We always know just where to find him. There is nothing wishy-washy about his declarations. It was the wildest stretch of the imagination when anybody ever dreamed that he was the least bit friendly to silver. He was made popular by Wall street at so much a line in the newspapers, but that was not his fault. Grover Cleveland is just what he

is, and his actions on the silver question are in entire accord with his letters and messages during his first administration. If he has blocked silver legislation, it is the fault of the party that nominated him twice after he declared his position on that question, and not his.

The total capital stock of both the national and private banks in the United States is \$1,067,597,237, and the total loans \$4,140,751,169, according to the report of the comptroller of the currency. In other words the banks have loaned out more than four times the amount of their capital. This is money deposited in the banks by the people who have but little or no security for it. The profits of the banks consist in interest on loans and discounts. They three-fourths of their profits consist in interest on money which they owe. That is the banker lives and thrives on the interest of what he owes. A great banking system, this!

If the people would adopt the policy of the bankers and demand gold for all their transactions it would bankrupt the country within thirty days. Or, if they would even refuse to take bank notes it would give the banks and business men a dose of their own medicine that would soon make them sick of the gold fallacy. In fact if the people would act as selfishly as the bankers do in these matters the government would be forced into a sensible financial policy over which the banks would have no control.

The Standard Oil company advanced the price of oil 17 cents on the barrel in two days recently, and \$2 a barrel is predicted soon. In freeing out small producers as a means of getting rid of competition, and skinning the people, the Standard Oil company is becoming the greatest robber concern in this country. In advancing oil Rockefeller is probably getting ready to endow another college or build a church.

Do not be surprised that you meet with opposition in this reform movement, and that men are slow to accept the truth. No reform has ever been effected without opposition—in fact, no innovation in science, in the field of invention, religious or political reforms have ever been readily accepted by the world. Every reformer, every inventor or great discoverer has encountered skepticism, opposition and many of them persecutions.

Six thousand men in Brooklyn were interested in the strike in that city several months ago. The incidents attending that strike and its result ought to add 5,000 voters to the reform parties in opposition to the two old parties, the policies of which make strikes of that kind necessary. But how many of these 5,000 laboring men will use the ballot as a means of correcting the wrongs heaped upon them?

"Politics makes strange bedfellows." Emperor William gave Prince Bismarck to understand he was a back number, when the young war lord succeeded to power in Germany. When he found socialism sapping power from under him, he was compelled to eat humble pie—as lately demonstrated in the Bismarck birthday feasts, and now, to counteract the aggressive policy of the socialists the Bismarck policy has been resumed and the ex-chancellor is practically premier again. The People's party of Germany is making trouble for the young emperor.

RULED BY WEALTHY.

ALTGELD'S ARRANGEMENT OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

Divinity of Riches Recognized and a Curse Breathed Against Enterprise by the Income-Tax Decision—Memorandum Filed by the Attorney-General.

A Springfield, Ill., special says: Gov. Altgeld gave out an interview today denouncing the United States Supreme court for the income tax decision. He says:

"The court has held the law to be void in so far as it affects the large real estate owners, such as the Astors, of New York, and has also held it to be void in so far as it affects the rich bondholders of the east. But the remainder is sustained, the court holding that the business and producing classes must pay the income tax. It is all a question of constitutional construction, and as this depends on opinion or prejudice, one is reminded of the distinguished Englishman who, in speaking of the court of chancery, said that the proceedings were all a matter of conscience, and as the consciences of the different chancellors varied as much as the size of their feet, so did their decisions on any question. Now, the constitution of the United States has been construed in more different ways than all the judges together had feet, but always in harmony with what was the controlling influence or power of the times. Before the war the slave power and the south dominated the court. Since the war concentrated wealth and the east has dominated the court, and the time will come when justice and the great Mississippi valley will dominate the court."

"This particular decision recognizes the divinity of wealth by exempting it from taxation, and it breathes a curse against enterprise by making it bear all the burdens of government. But it is in harmony with that passage of scripture which says that 'for he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.' And it is in perfect accord with the Republican and Mugwump theory of government now being applied in this country, and, as this decision is in favor of New England and a few eastern cities, and against the rest of America, it is also in harmony with what will soon be recognized as the sixteenth amendment to the constitution, which declares that a gilded vestibule is no more important than the remainder of the house, that the interests of the east are paramount to the interests of the rest of the country. It also shows that at least two of the co-ordinate branches of our government receive their inspiration at the same altar."

"You remember that the president opposed the income tax and would not sign the tariff bill, and Mr. Wilson, who represented him in congress, opposed the income tax. Congress, however, knowing that almost every civilized country had an income tax, and believing it to be the most just form of taxation, and having no doubt about its constitutionality, passed the measure, both Republicans and Democrats supporting it. For a time there was bitter gness in the camp of Mammon, but the Supreme court has come to the rescue, and now the Standard Oil kings, the Wall street people, as well as the rich mugwumps, are again happy. To be sure, the great business and producing classes are not relieved; their burden is made a little heavier, and the whip has made a new welt on their backs, but what of it? In fact, what are they there for, if not to bear the burden and to be lashed?"

"But this decision is radically defective in a number of particulars. (1) It should contain a paenegyric on the majesty of the law and the exalted character of eternal justice. (2) It should have contained a stinging rebuke to the growing discontent of the times. (3) It should contain a declaration in favor of gold, for if the interest on bonds is divine and so sacred that not a cent of it can be used to help bear the burdens of government, then the court should see to it that this sacred household god of the east shall never suffer profanation by having the rim of its eyes made silver. But it would be unreasonable to expect the court to think of everything. Besides, it will have other opportunities from time to time to solidify our institutions and to teach patriotism by coming down with terrific force on some wretch whose vulgarly and unpatriotic character will be proven by the fact that he is poor."

"The decision, however, suggests a more important question to the American people. You know that the judges of the Supreme court when in session wear large black gowns, such as were worn in the middle ages. In other countries and in other times this was done to make little men seem great. In this country it is done to impress the populace with the infallibility of the court. Now, as these gowns are not very thick, and as some people might be able to see through them, and as some of our business people may be unpatriotic enough to question the justice of having to pay a large income tax while the rich pay nothing, and as there is danger that some of these men may doubt the infallibility of the court, would it not be well to have each judge wear two gowns for awhile, until the storm blows over?"

Silver is the disturbing element in the two old parties—the rock upon which they will split in 1896, as there is an element in both parties that will not allow the single standard idea to be crammed down them. The white metal has many friends in both parties who will not submit to the dictation of the gold bugs, hence splits in both parties are certain.